

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/749,541

Examiner

Hai C Pham

Applicant(s)

MAEDA, KATSUHIKO

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 02/03/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-37, 39, 41-42, 45-59, 61-79, 81-83, 85-86, 90-91, 95-96, 98-100.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/15/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 15-16, 36, 39, 53-54, 59, 61, 63-69, 78, 79, 86, 90-91, 95-96, 98 and 100 are patentable over the prior art patents and printed publications because of the specific magnification errors being corrected by changing both the prescribed write clock frequency and the prescribed rotation number of the light beam deflecting device to prescribed levels based on the result of a comparison between the time difference signal measured during one scanning period and the reference time difference signal, wherein, with respect to claims 15-16, 53-54, 64-65, 68-69, the light beam deflecting device starts rotating at a lower speed at the time the time difference is detected; wherein, with respect to claims 59, 86, 91, 96, the time difference is determined without lowering a light beam deflection speed if the image formation is in progress and the time difference is compared with a first reference time so that only existence of the magnification errors can be recognized and then the light beam deflection speed is lowered when said magnification error is recognized such that a new time difference is determined and compared with a second reference time difference, wherein, with respect to claims 61 and 98, the magnification errors are corrected at a prescribed timing corresponding to an interval of sheets fed to the image carrier, and wherein, with respect to claims 63, 90, 95, 100, a new sheet feed is stopped when a time difference is different from the reference time difference and the magnification errors are then corrected. The combined limitations as recited in each of the above base claims are not taught by the art of record alone or in combination.

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Claims 36, 39, 66-67 and 78-79 are patentable over the prior art patents and printed publications because of the specific magnification errors being corrected by changing both the prescribed write clock frequency and the prescribed rotation number of the light beam deflecting device to prescribed levels in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting device formed in the optical unit, which includes an f- θ lens. The combined limitations are not taught by the art of record alone or in combination.

All the remaining claims are allowed because they are directly or indirectly dependent from the above base claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

May 21, 2004